Approved November 7, 2013

Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, October 3, 2013
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance
Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe, Lydia Han, Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz, and Clark Reed
Commissioners Absent: Lea Rosenbohm
Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management;
Shelly Frisina, Montgomery County Resident (attending for school purposes)

Meeting Commencement
The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the Agenda and the September 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Chair Reed asked if there were any additions to the agenda. The *PARC-IT* and the *Built and Natural Environments* discussions were deferred. Commissioner Dighe moved and Commissioner Hosmer seconded approval of the September 5, 2013, meeting minutes with no corrections. The motion passed 6-0-2 (Commissioners Han and Kravitz abstained).

Multi-City Meeting
The multi-city meeting is scheduled for 6:30 to 9:00 pm on October 16, 2013 in the Mayor and Council Chambers of Rockville City Hall. Planning discussions included finalizing an optional dinner gathering at the Dawson Market; light refreshments; invited speakers, finalizing the agenda, and distribution to the multi-city mailing list. It was previously decided that the theme of the evening was enhancing solar power opportunities in the region, including supporting the concept of "community solar.' Commissioners Reed, Dighe, Rosenbohm and Becker are planning to attend.

MEA Energy Policy Resolution and Grant
Mark Charles described the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) $97,000 grant opportunity and its conditions: 1) the City, by resolution, must set a goal to reduced energy consumption by 15% (from consumption in 2010) by the year 2015; 2) similarly, the City must adopt a second goal to generate up to 20% of our power needs using renewable energy by 2022; 3) the City must develop and implement and *Energy Action Plan* that is designed to achieve these goals; and 4) submit periodic progress reports to MEA. It was noted that the grant does not require any matching funds, and there is no penalty for not meeting the goals so long as a good faith effort is made. Commissioner Becker moved to endorse the City's participation in the grant program to the Mayor and Council. Commissioner Palakovich Carr seconded. After brief discussion, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Georgetown University Energy Prize

Georgetown University is sponsoring a national energy reduction competition among participating jurisdictions of 250,000 or less. A significant cash prize is intended to be awarded to the community that reduces its residential and City/County electricity and natural gas consumption the most. For the past several months, the Environment Commission has been researching the contest and considering whether Rockville should enter.

At this meeting, Chair Reed asked whether the Commission wished to enter the competition. The Chair had previously circulated a "Playbook" on the methods the Commission might use to motivate residents to participate. Substantial discussion followed. While there was consensus that energy reduction was a supportable goal, there was concern expressed that the competition might be too ambitious, too resource intensive, and might prevent the Commission from focusing on other priorities over the next four years. An additional stumbling block was the need for PEPCO to provide energy data for the City (which the company has been reluctant to do for at least the past 5 years). However, some Commissioners thought that high school students, neighborhood organizations, and civic groups like the Chamber of Commerce might be willing to assist. The Chair acknowledged that the Commission may need to secure corporate sponsors.

Additional concerns were identified including how to motivate renters and people living in condos with shared electric meters. The Playbook was explained and Commissioners asked questions and debated the merits of participation. Commissioner Cardon moved that the Commission not enter the Georgetown contest and Commissioner Hosmer seconded. The motion not to participate passed 4-2-2 (Commissioners Han and Palakovich Carr abstained).

RainScapes Program Evaluation

The Watershed Protection Committee has completed a program review of the City *RainScapes* program design and implementation. Overall, the review shows the program is well managed. The recent addition of an online application is particularly helpful. The Committee encourages the City staff to focus on residential properties rather than extending the program to commercial properties. There was also a suggestion to begin mapping the locations of properties that previously received rebates. Finally, the Committee supports an expansion into the area of pavement (impervious surface) removal. The Committee indicated it is willing to assist Staff in promoting the program to residents.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles noted that EPA's Philadelphia Regional Office is planning on inspecting Rockville's stormwater program. The original dates were to occur during the Federal government shutdown. The new dates for the site visit are November 5 and 6, 2013.

Three Environmental Excellence Awards were presented at the September 30, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting to residents Carol Hannaford, Loren Scherbak and Charles Woolery. All three knew Carl Henn and were very appreciative of the honor. Anne Goodman accepted on behalf of Hannaford and Scherbak.

Adjourn
Commissioner Kravitz moved to adjourn and Commissioner Palakovich Carr seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Next Commission Meeting
The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, November 7, 2013**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.